Secular reorientation of Indian history text books

1173. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for bringing about a secular reorientation to the text books of the Indian history in schools and colleges in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARSIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) The Government of India has, since 1981, initiated a Programme of Evaluation of textbooks in history and other subjects from the Standpoint of National Integration. The National Policy on Education 1986 envisages that all educational programmes will be carried out in strict conformity with secular values. The National Curriculum for Primary and Secondary Education—A Framework brought out by NCERT has stressed secularism as one of the primary aims of education. The new series of textbooks that are now being brought out by the NCERT will also stress the aspect of reorienting the study of Indian history with a view to promote secular attitudes and values.

At the University level, textbooks as such are not prepared, but standard works in different subjects are recommended for reading. It is expected that while prescribing text books and reading materials, the objectives of promoting national integration, secularism etc. would be kept in view.

Seeting up of Indian Institute of Technology

1174. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided not to set-up any more Indian Institutes of Technology in the country; and

(b) if so, what will be the fate of the one proposed to be set up in Assam, as per the provisions of the Assam Accord?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARSIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) The Government of India have decided to set up an IIT in Assam as per the Assam Accord.

Marketing of Electrolyte Salt

1175. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Electrolyte salt is being marketed in the country under different compositions;

(b) whether it is also a fact that World Health Organisation has prescribed a formula;

(c) what are the names of drug companies along with their brands which are not being marketed according to World Health Organisation formula;

(d) whether Government have not approved one formula for this product;

(e) what are the reosons for allowing permissions under different compositions;

(f) what was the total value for which Government purchased this product for National Health Programme during the last three years, yearwise indicating the names of the companies, details of order placed on each, and composition of product of each company;

(g) whether Government tested the samples before purchase; and

(h) if so, what is the number of samples tested along with the report in respect of each?